POWER STRUGGLE
729
$1.95 US
$2.75 CAN
JAN '97
1997
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SUPERMAN
ACTION COMICS
DIRECT CURRENT!
MICHELINIE,
GRUMMETT &
ROBIER
DIRECT SALES
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ANTARCTICA, SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES INLAND OF THE AMERY ICE SHELF...
AMAZING! I'M CRUISING ONE OF THE COLDEST ENVIRONMENTS ON EARTH--
--IN A CONVERTIBLE!
OH, WELL. COULDN'T REALLY SAY "NO" WHEN THE GUARDIAN OFFERED TRANSPORTATION. AND I HAVE TO ADMIT THIS BUGGY GOT ME HERE IN RECORD TIME.
PROBLEM IS, IT WAS DESIGNED TO BE FLOWN BY GODS--
--NOT KRYPTONIANS WHO'VE LOST THEIR POWERS!
FWAMP!
WHAT THE--?!
ENGINE DYING! ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS SHUTTING DOWN!
AND ALL I'VE GOT IS A DEAD CONTROL STICK, AND HUMAN MUSCLES, TO KEEP US BOTH--

SUPERMAN created by
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

GENERATOR X!

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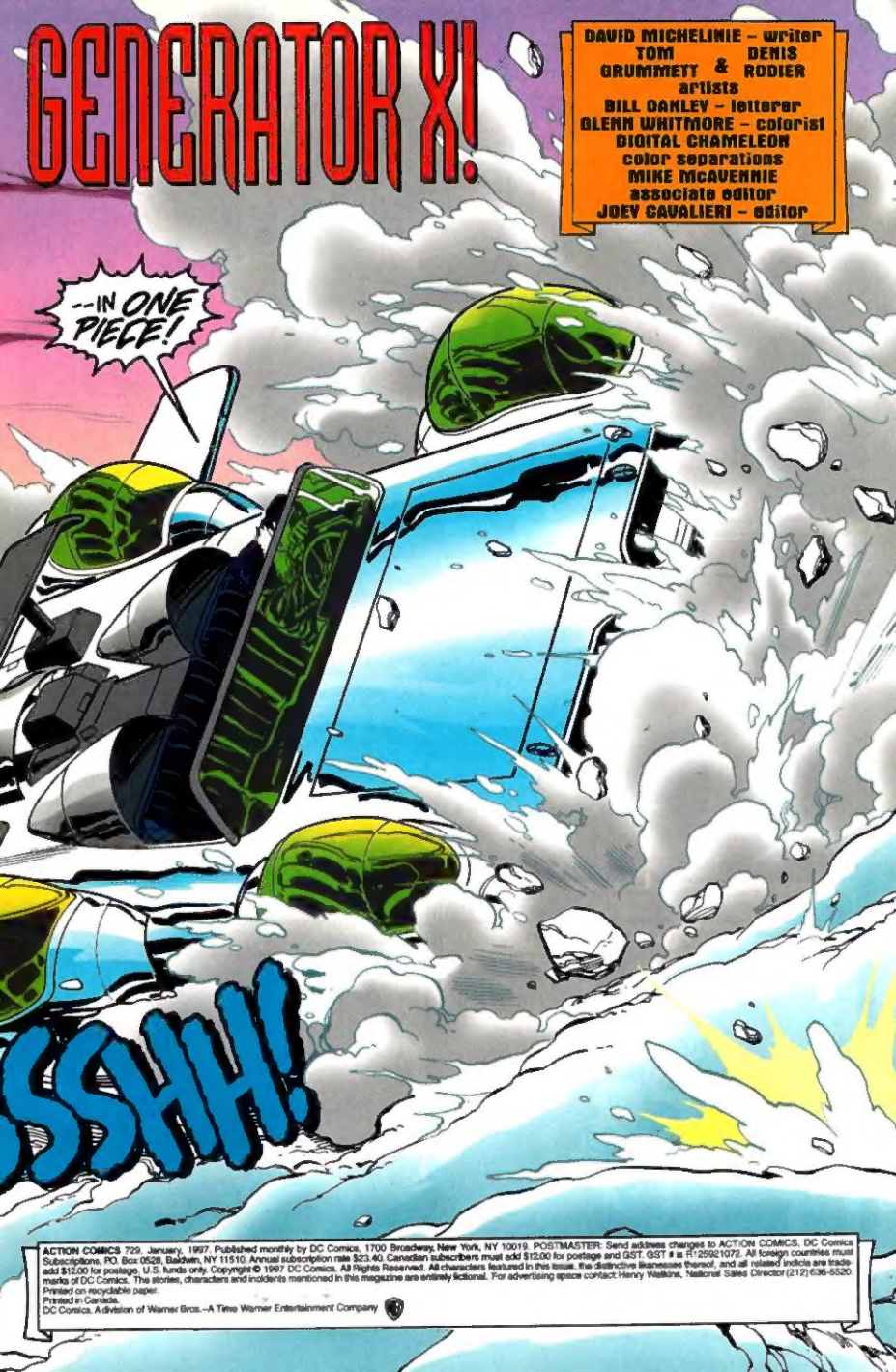
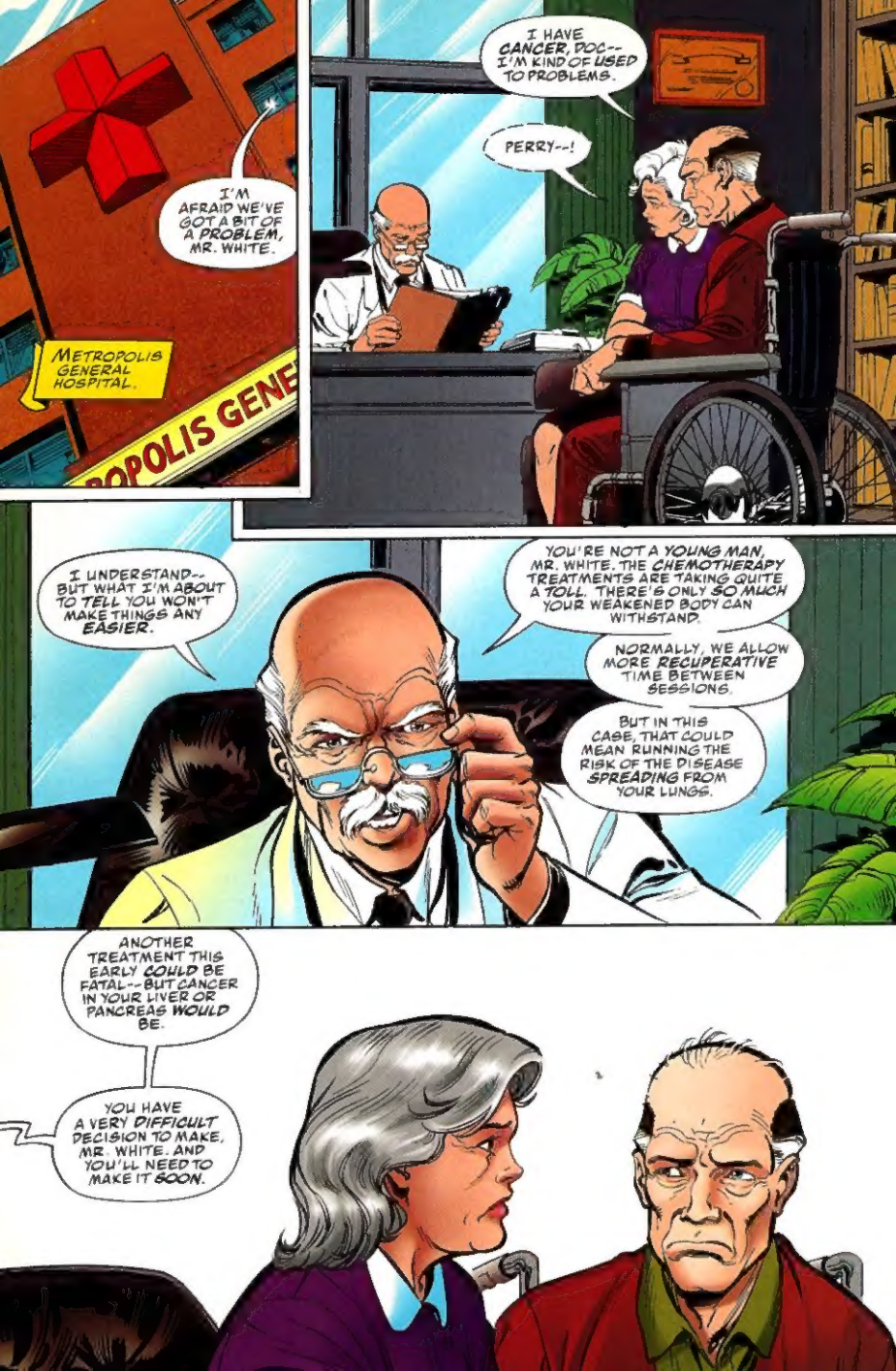
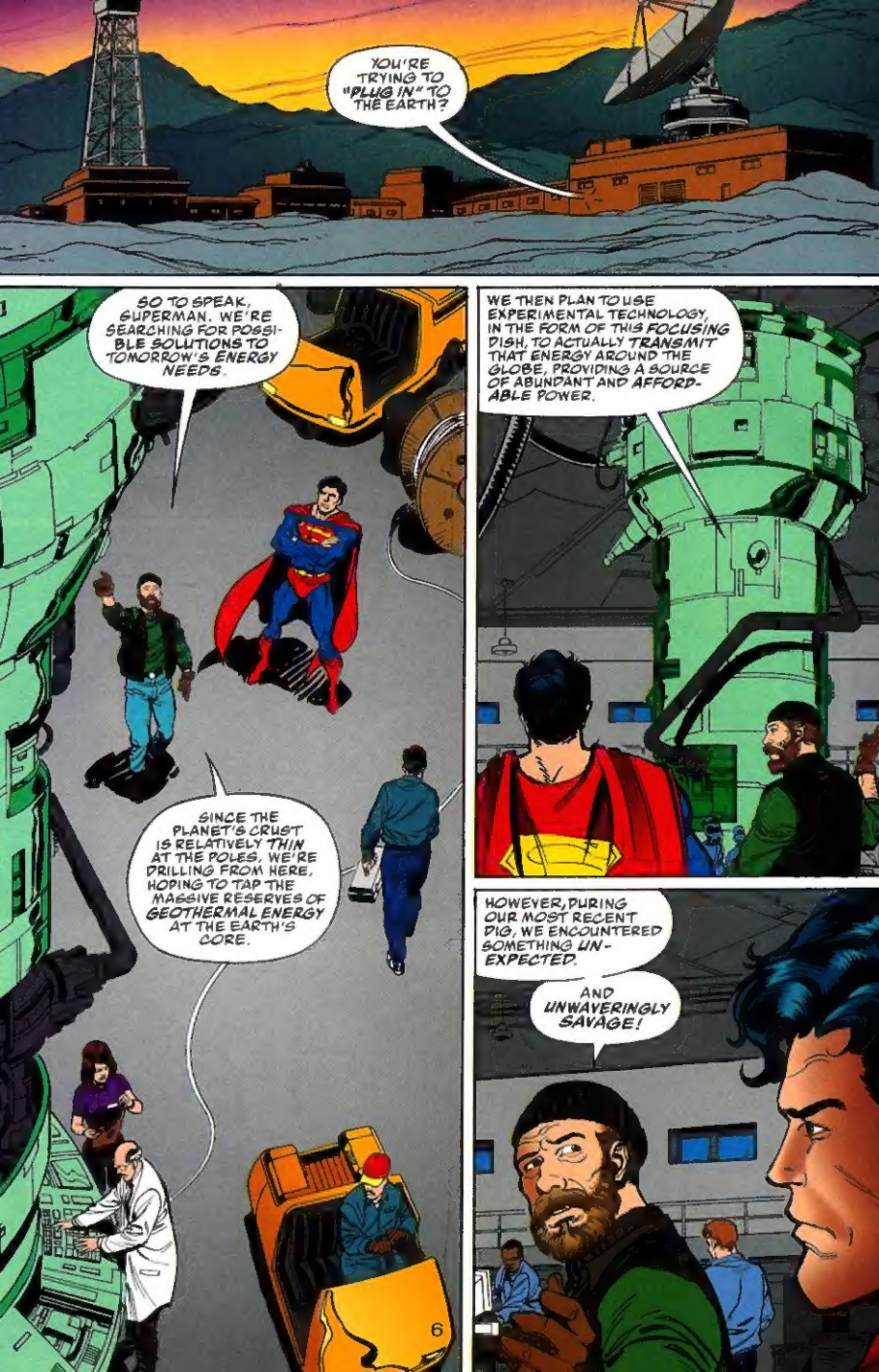


ACTION COMICS 729, January, 1997. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ACTION COMICS, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $23.40. Canadian subscribers must add $12.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 1997 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. For advertising space contact: Henry Watkins, National Sales Director (212) 636-5520.
Printed on recyclable paper.
Printed in Canada.
DC Comics, A division of Warner Bros.–A Time Warner Entertainment Company

;whew!; THAT WAS ROUGH!
BUT FORTUNATELY, A COMBINATION OF FLYING EXPERIENCE AND SOFT SNOW LEFT US BOTH IN WORKING ORDER!
OR MAYBE NOT? SEEMS I MAY HAVE A CONCUSSION. I'M STARTING TO HEAR THINGS.
LIKE--
--DOGS?
THAT COSTUME! A-AND THE FACE!
COULD OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED? COULD IT REALLY BE--
--SUPERMAN?
WELL, YES, I'M SUPERMAN, BUT--
THANK HEAVEN! QUICKLY, COME WITH ME! OUR RESEARCH STATION IS IN TERRIBLE DANGER!
BUT WITH YOUR POWER, YOU CAN SAVE US!
"POWER"? UH, I'M AFRAID THAT MAY BE A BIT OF A PROBLEM...


I'M AFRAID WE'VE GOT A BIT OF A PROBLEM, MR. WHITE.
METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL.
I HAVE CANCER, DOC-- I'M KIND OF USED TO PROBLEMS.
PERRY--!
I UNDERSTAND-- BUT WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU WON'T MAKE THINGS ANY EASIER.
YOU'RE NOT A YOUNG MAN, MR. WHITE. THE CHEMOTHERAPY TREATMENTS ARE TAKING QUITE A TOLL. THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH YOUR WEAKENED BODY CAN WITHSTAND.
NORMALLY, WE ALLOW MORE RECUPERATIVE TIME BETWEEN SESSIONS.
BUT IN THIS CASE, THAT COULD MEAN RUNNING THE RISK OF THE DISEASE SPREADING FROM YOUR LUNGS.
ANOTHER TREATMENT THIS EARLY COULD BE FATAL--BUT CANCER IN YOUR LIVER OR PANCREAS WOULD BE.
YOU HAVE A VERY DIFFICULT DECISION TO MAKE, MR. WHITE. AND YOU'LL NEED TO MAKE IT SOON.


YOU'RE TRYING TO "PLUG IN" TO THE EARTH?
SO TO SPEAK, SUPERMAN. WE'RE SEARCHING FOR POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO TOMORROW'S ENERGY NEEDS.
SINCE THE PLANET'S CRUST IS RELATIVELY THIN AT THE POLES, WE'RE DRILLING FROM HERE, HOPING TO TAP THE MASSIVE RESERVES OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY AT THE EARTH'S CORE.
WE THEN PLAN TO USE EXPERIMENTAL TECHNOLOGY, IN THE FORM OF THIS FOCUSING DISH, TO ACTUALLY TRANSMIT THAT ENERGY AROUND THE GLOBE, PROVIDING A SOURCE OF ABUNDANT AND AFFORDABLE POWER.
HOWEVER, DURING OUR MOST RECENT DIG, WE ENCOUNTERED SOMETHING UNEXPECTED.
AND UNWAVERINGLY SAVAGE!

"WE'D PENETRATED TO OUR GREATEST DEPTH YET, WHEN OUR BREACHING BIT UNWITTINGLY RELEASED... SOMETHING.
"THE BEST WAY I CAN DESCRIBE IT IS 'SENTIENT ELECTRICITY.' WHETHER IT'S A NATURAL PHENOMENON, OR SOMETHING OTHERWORLDLY TRAPPED BENEATH THE ICE FOR CENTURIES, WE HAVEN'T A CLUE.
"BUT IT SEEMS TO BE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING.
"IT ENTERED SEVERAL WORKERS, ALMOST AS IF TESTING THEM BEFORE MOVING ON.
"THE MEN SUFFERED SEVERE SHOCK, BURNS... SOME ARE STILL CRITICAL. THIS THING MAY NOT BE CONSCIOUSLY MALEVOLENT, BUT IT IS DEFINITELY DANGEROUS!
"WE RIGGED OUR MACHINES TO EMIT A WIDESPREAD ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE, HOPING TO DAMPEN OR KILL THE CREATURE.
"IT DIDN'T WORK.
"EITHER THE ENTITY HID IN THE SHIELDED CIRCUITS OF THIS COMPLEX, OR IT'S SO ALIEN THAT OUR PHYSICS JUST DON'T APPLY TO IT!"

THOUGH IT SEEMS OUR E.M.P. DID BRING DOWN YOUR VEHICLE, AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT--
--THAT COULD BE OUR SALVATION!
WE TINKERED TOGETHER THESE BACKPACKS TO FIRE NEGATIVE ELECTRICAL CHARGES, HOPING THEY MIGHT HELP US BATTLE THE CREATURE.
BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE--!
SORRY IF I GAVE YOU FALSE HOPE, DR. BEKLER, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO KNOW:
MY BODY IS ESSENTIALLY A SOLAR BATTERY, AND MY ENERGY WAS TOTALLY DRAINED WHEN THE SUN RECENTLY WENT OUT. *
*SEE THE FINAL NIGHT!
FOR REASONS I DON'T UNDERSTAND, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO RECHARGE SINCE THE SUN WAS RESTORED. RIGHT NOW, I'M NO MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU ARE!
THEN... WE'RE DOOMED.
NO. YOU'RE DOOMED ONLY IF YOU GIVE UP.
HITTING THAT CREATURE WITH NEGATIVE CHARGES SEEMS SOUND.
SO WHY DON'T WE GIVE IT A TRY?
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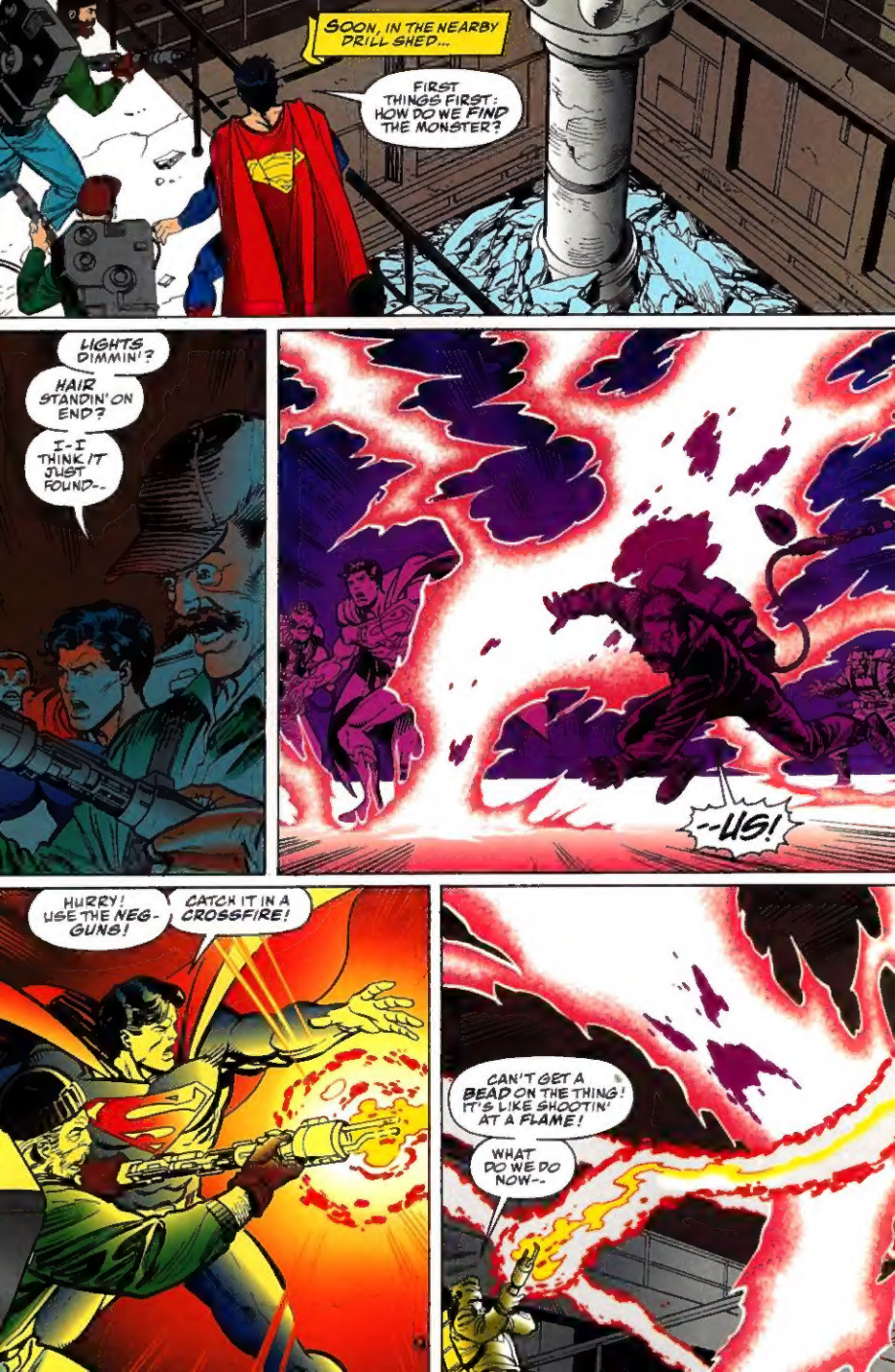
SOON, IN THE NEARBY DRILL SHED...
FIRST THINGS FIRST: HOW DO WE FIND THE MONSTER?
LIGHTS DIMMIN'?
HAIR STANDIN' ON END?
I-I THINK IT JUST FOUND--
--US!
HURRY! USE THE NEG-GUNS!
CATCH IT IN A CROSSFIRE!
CAN'T GET A BEAD ON THE THING! IT'S LIKE SHOOTIN' AT A FLAME!
WHAT DO WE DO NOW--

--SUPERMAN?
UHNNN!
GGGGHHHAAAA!
I-IT ISN'T PASSIN' THROUGH! IT'S STAYIN' IN HIS BODY!
THEN WE'VE GOT A STATIONARY TARGET!
BUT AMOS, WITHOUT HIS POWERS--!
HE'LL BURN UP FROM THE INSIDE IF WE DON'T HELP!
DO IT!
NOW!
IT WORKED! WE DROVE THE CREATURE OUT!
YEAH, BUT SUPERMAN--
--ISN'T BREATHING!

OH, LORD! HIS HEART'S STOPPED!
BREATHE, DAMMIT!
NEWTON, GET THE MEDICART IN HERE!
BREATHE!
BREATHE!
EASY, AMOS! I'VE GOT A PULSE!
WE HAVE TO GET HIM TO THE INFIRMARY! RUN FOLLOW-UP TESTS!
SUPERMAN, CAN YOU STAND?
I... I'M A LITTLE WEAK. BUT I THINK I'LL BE OKAY
THANKS.
SO WHAT NOW, AMOS? THAT THING ALMOST KILLED SUPERMAN!
WHAT'S IT GONNA DO... TO US?

YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
SORRY, RON. THE MORNING EDITION'S LONG. YOUR STORY HAS TO BE TRIMMED.
IT'S BARE BONES NOW! CLARK WOULD NEVER CUT IT!
CLARK ISN'T HERE! AND WITH MR. WHITE IN THE HOSPITAL--
RUN THE STORY, ALLIE -- IT'S GOOD. JUST THROW OUT THAT FLUFF PIECE ABOUT WETLANDS CONSERVATION.
DIRK ARMSTRONG?! WHO DIED AND MADE YOU CZAR?
THIS SHIP IS FOUNDERING! IT NEEDS A CAPTAIN! AND I'M--
--NOT IT! BREAK YOUR STORY INTO TWO PARTS, MR. TROUPE!
WE'LL RUN THE SECOND HALF TOMORROW.
NOW -- BACK TO WORK -- ALL OF YOU!
I'M A PUBLISHER, NOT AN EDITOR. I'VE GOT TO TALK WITH KENT ABOUT THIS
IF I CAN EVER FIND HIM!

WHILE IN ANTARCTICA..
MAYBE NOT. WE'RE LEARNING ABOUT IT. IT STAYED IN SUPERMAN LIKE IT'D FOUND WHAT IT'S LOOKING FOR
WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE!
THAT MONSTER'S GONNA PICK US OFF ONE BY ONE.
MAYBE IT SENSES YOUR BODY'S A BATTERY, WANTS IT FOR A VESSEL TO GIVE IT FORM OR SOMETHING.
BUT THE CREATURE DOESN'T SEEM TO REALIZE--OR CARE--THAT IT DESTROYS THOSE IT SEEKS AS "VESSELS."
A REASONABLE THEORY, DR BELLER.
AND WITHOUT POWERS THE ONLY WAY I CAN THINK OF TO STOP IT--
--MAY COST ME MY LIFE!

I'VE NEVER KNOWN SUCH PAIN, ALICE
WHEN I'M ON CHEMO, IT FEELS LIKE MY BLOOD'S TURNED TO FIRE
THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD WAIT. THE STRAIN, YOUR HEART... YOU COULD DIE DURING TREATMENT
BUT IF I DELAY AND THE CANCER SPREADS..
..I'LL DIE FOR SURE
AND LOSING YOU AND KEITH. EVERYTHING THAT MEANS ANYTHING TO ME...
..THAT'S NOT SOMETHING I'LL ACCEPT WITHOUT A FIGHT.
IF PAIN IS WHAT IT TAKES, THEN PAIN IS WHAT I'LL TAKE
I WON'T GIVE UP...!

I'VE NEVER KNOWN PAIN LIKE I FELT WHEN THAT ENERGY CREATURE TRIED TO "INHABIT" ME
BUT GIVING UP ISN'T AN OPTION
AND NOW THAT LOIS AND I ARE MARRIED, I'M NOT READY TO THROW AWAY OUR NEW LIFE TOGETHER JUST YET.
ALL RIGHT, DR. BEKLER, ACTIVATE THE POWER TRANSMITTER.
WITH LUCK, THE SURGE OF ELECTRICITY WILL LURE THAT CREATURE HERE.
YES, BUT ARE WE TALKING GOOD LUCK, OR--
--B-B-BAD?
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IT'S GOING FOR ME, JUST LIKE I FIGURED!
NERVE ENDINGS... SCREAMING!
BUT I HAVE TO HANG ON...
G-GET IN POSITION..
HE'S FRYIN' INSIDE! WE GOTTA HELP HIM!
NOT YET! HE ISN'T LINED UP!
THERE! ALL RIGHT--
--FIRE!
OH, LORD! WE'RE KILLIN' HIM!
THAT MONSTER'LL KILL 'IM ANY-WAY!
DON'T LET UP!
LOOK! NEGATIVE ENERGY'S DRIVIN' THE BEAST OUT OF 'IM!

IT'S HOVERING IN FRONT OF THE TRANS-MITTER!
HALLORAN! GET THAT CART MOVING!
AIMED AN' ACTIVATED, AMOS!
ON ITS WAY!
NAILED 'IM!
JURY-RIGGED I-BEAM'S MAKIN' CONTACT BETWEEN THE MON-STER AND THE MACHINE!
ENERGY TRANSMISSION CYCLE--
--INITIATED!

ZZZ

THE DOCTOR SAYS YOUR VITAL SIGNS ARE STRONG, DARLING.
METROPOLIS GENERAL
YOU DID IT.
NO.
WE... DID IT.
YOU... WERE MY STRENGTH... ALICE.
WE'RE A TEAM, YOU OLD BEAR. WE ALWAYS HAVE BEEN.
WE ALWAYS WILL BE.

SOME TIME LATER, IN A DIFFERENT PART OF THE ANTARCTIC...
...WITHIN SUPERMAN'S HIDDEN SANCTUARY...
SO THOSE SCIENTISTS WERE ABLE TO RECHARGE YOUR VEHICLE AND SEND YOU ON YOUR WAY?
THAT'S RIGHT, PROFESSOR HAMILTON. BUT NOT BEFORE MY ENCOUNTER WITH THAT ELECTRICITY BEING MADE ME AWARE OF SOMETHING VERY BASIC:
WITHOUT POWERS, I CAN'T BE SUPERMAN!
Hnh? PHASE FIELD AROUND THE BOTTLE CITY OF KANDOR SEEMED TO FLUTTER A BIT!
BUT I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW!
FOR ALL THE VALUE OF COURAGE AND PURPOSE, WITHOUT MY SUPER-POWERS, I'M JUST A COSTUME WITH DETERMINATION.
TO BE SUPERMAN, TO DO THE THINGS I NEED TO DO, I'VE GOT TO GET MY POWERS BACK!
A KRYPTONIAN REJUVENATION POD RESTORED BODY, SOUL AND POWERS AFTER I DIED AT DOOMSDAY'S HANDS.
THIS REBUILT POD MAY-- MUST-- DO THE SAME.
HE ENTERS THE EGG-SHAPED CHAMBER--

--AS ALIEN ENERGIES ROAR, FILLING THE PULSATING POD--
-- AND COURSING THROUGH THE BLACK RESTORATION SUIT WORN BY THE HOPEFUL HERO INSIDE--
--UNTIL AT LAST, THE WHIRRING SUBSIDES, AND THE SANCTUARY GROWS SILENT.
SUPERMAN...?
YES, PROFESSOR...
...I BELIEVE I AM!
I FEEL YOUNG, STRONG, NEW!
ALL IT TAKES IS A SIMPLE TEST TO PROVE IT AND--
:hrnk: C-CONSOLE ONLY WEIGHS... :WHNG: A FEW THOUSAND POUNDS!
BUT I CAN'T MOVE IT--:HNGF: --AN INCH!
I'M NO STRONGER THAN BEFORE! THE REJUVENATION POD--
--DIDN'T WORK!
BOOM!

MR. MIRACLE--
--AND BIG BARDA?!
SORRY TO BURST IN LIKE THIS, SUPERMAN, BUT WE'RE IN DESPERATE NEED!
YOU MUST RETURN WITH US IN THIS BOOM TUBE!
BUT--!
THE FATE OF OUR WORLD IS IN QUESTION--
--AND ONLY THE POWER OF SUPERMAN CAN PROVIDE AN ANSWER!
BOOM!
THE FATE OF A WORLD... DEPENDS ON SUPERMAN'S POWER?
uh-oh.
TO FIND OUT JUST HOW BIG AN UNDERSTATEMENT THAT IS, READ THE ASTOUNDING CONCLUSION IN MAN OF STEEL #64 --ON SALE NEXT WEEK!